

# A DRY START TO A LONG SEASON

By Monroe S. Miller

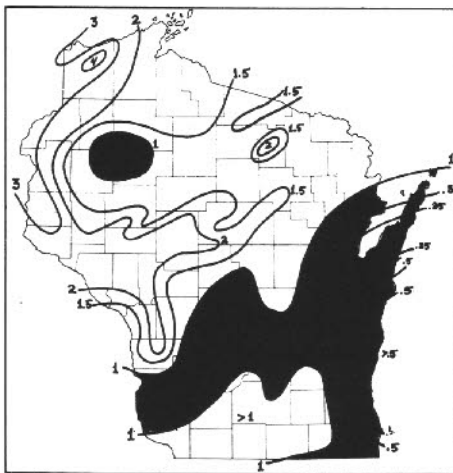
Day follows day in parched monotony,  
Its sights and sounds etched subtly on  
the brain.

The dying fields lie gasping in the sun.  
Above them floats, as if to ease their  
pain,  
Suspended there in haunting harmony,  
The robin's poignant, plaintive prayer for  
rain.

Marie Olson

If you thought May was unusually  
dry, you were right. It will go into the  
record books and remain in the minds  
of Wisconsin's Golf Course Superin-  
tendents as a difficult month.

Milwaukee had its driest May in 103  
years—only 0.50 inches of rain was re-  
corded at Mitchell International Airport.  
That was prosperous compared to the  
0.06 inches of moisture reported by the  
National Weather Service in Green  
Bay. Madison recorded 0.92 inches of  
rainfall, giving the capital city its fourth



Map/Douglas Clar, UW Extension

Shaded areas received less than an  
inch of rain in May.

driest May on record. You need to go  
back to 1925, when 0.38 inches of rain  
fell, to find a drier May. That, in fact,  
was the record year for the city.

The lack of rainfall was accompa-  
nied by extremely hot weather, espe-  
cially in the last half of the month when  
85-93 degree temperatures were com-  
mon. The miserable weather created  
problems getting aerification com-  
pleted. It accelerated disease and in-  
sect problems. Many water supplies for  
golf courses were dangerously low go-  
ing into the demanding summer sea-  
son, amplifying concerns for those golf  
courses.

The only good that came from the  
dry weather was the chance for those  
involved in golf course construction  
projects to get them done quickly. The  
redemption is that it can't get much  
worse. A normal July and August would  
be very welcome.



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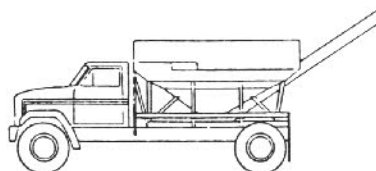
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